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Book Are Us

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by **Anne Robichaux** (Professor Emerita, Medical University of South Carolina; Consultant, Majors Scientific Books)
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Column Editor's Note: This column covers fictitious accounts of people in our industry — librarians, publishers, vendors, booksellers, etc. — people like us. All contributions, comments, suggestions are welcome. —AR

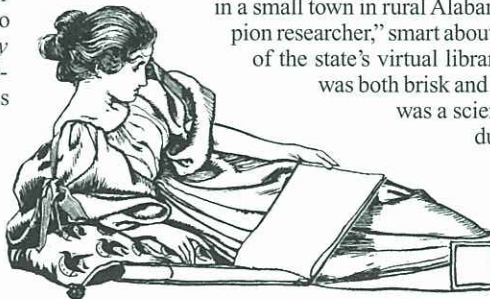
The subject volumes, arranged in chapters, cover a wide array of topics. Each chapter provides compact, informative discussions and offers detailed information on key concepts and many chapters include illustrative charts, diagrams, and tables. Chapters include an extensive bibliography (100+ entries) containing both books and scholarly journal articles. Bibliographic references to World Wide Web resources are noticeably absent. Individual volumes contain author and subject indexes; the indexes, however, are far from comprehensive. Curiously, a number of the chapter division headings are not included in the indexes. In some cases, tests or theories named after a person, such as "Fiedler's Contingency Theory," the only access point is in the "Author" index under the personal name, Fiedler, F. E. Interestingly, there is also a misspelling on the name—the chapter title is listed as "Fieldler's Contingency Theory" instead of correctly as "Fiedler's Contingency Theory." This is illustrated more clearly when one searches for **C. J. Jung** in the volume, "History of Psychology." His name is not listed in the subject index. However, on closer examination, one find eleven references in the author index under **Jung, C. G.** But there is no bias, **Freud** is not listed either. There are numerous entries to his name in the author index. **Gordon Allport** suffers a similar fate. "Author Index" is a misnomer; it would be correct to call it a "Name Index."

The organization of this series makes it complicated to look up a topic like "Motivation." Motivation is covered in no less than nine volumes and there are entire chapters in two of the volumes as follows: volume 1 (history of motivation); volume 2 (motivation—extrinsic/intrinsic); volume 3 (motivated behavior); volume 4 (entire chapter—main entry); volume 5 (motivation, social); volume 7 (motivation, education); volume 9 (MET motivational enhancement therapy); volume 10 (motivation, intrinsic; motivational assessment scale); volume 12 (chapter—organizational, MTQ motivational trait questionnaire).

In terms of the intended audience, the author's preface includes three groups as follows:

- [1] "First, for graduate students in behavioral science the volumes provide advanced instruction in the basic concepts and methods in the fields they cover, together with a review of current knowledge, core literature, and likely future developments."
- [2] Second, in addition to serving as graduate textbooks, the volumes offer professional psychologists an opportunity to read and contemplate the views of distinguished colleagues concerning the central thrusts or research and leading edges of practice in their fields.
- [3] Third, for psychologists seeking to become conversant with fields outside their own specialty and for persons outside of psychology seeking information about psychological matters" (I, ix-x). Its use as a background source for undergraduate students is not mentioned as a goal.

Overall, the editor has correctly identified this work as a handbook and not an encyclopedia. One could even seriously consider cataloging/purchasing each title separately so it would be found with the other titles in the subject area; however, this would obviate the massive effort to organize the entire field in a logical framework of twelve subject divisions, and it would violate the principles of library cataloging. It seems odd that having made the effort to pull the entire discipline into organized categories that the editors did not take the final step to create an integrated index for all twelve volumes. It negates the value of the collection as a cohesive reference resource. Reference librarians should look to other works such as *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (Kazdin, 2000) or *Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Science* (Craighead, 2001). As stated in the preface, the individual volumes would be useful as textbooks or as core literature for graduate students. The set would be highly beneficial for practitioners' personal libraries or in the circulating collections of academic or medical libraries that serve upper-level undergraduates or graduate students.



I was delighted to read the new column introduced in the February issue of *ATG* — **Books That Matter** by **Ellen Finnie Duranceau**. The column brought to mind a novel I recently read and enjoyed, a book that "deserves to be devoured and discussed:" **The Lovely Bones**. Written by **Alice Sebold** (Little Brown, June 2002) the story is told by a young fourteen year old, Susie Salmon, from heaven. A victim of a brutal and senseless murder, Susie observes her family and friends as they continue their lives without her. In spite of the grim setting and beginning, this bittersweet story is told with humor, and a librarian is mentioned, not once, but twice! In one scene the librarian is depicted as an authoritative and censoring figure who "overtakes" a boy at the card catalog and takes from him a drawing that had been passed around the library. Drawn by one of the students in art class, it appeared to be a lewd and leering depiction of a model. In the second reference, Susie's younger brother, Buck, now in the seventh grade, has a crush on the school librarian: "His favorite teacher was not really a teacher at all but the school librarian, a tall, frail woman with wiry hair who drank tea from her thermos and talked about having lived in England when she was young." As a result of his infatuation, "Buck affected an English accent for a few months and showed a heightened interest in Masterpiece Theater."

Tamar Myers (www.tamarmyers.com), the author of two mystery series, briefly mentions a librarian who is easily intimidated in **No Use Dying Over Spilled Milk** (Signet, 1997), the third book in her Pennsylvania Dutch Mystery Series. The proprietress of the PennDutch Inn, Magdalena Yoder, an Amish-Mennonite, solves murders with humor, cunning, and common sense, mixed with a lot of self righteousness, and a few recipes to tantalize the reader. In this particular story she is visiting her Amish kin out of town. They have no telephone (and she has no cell) so she goes to the local public library to use the pay phone when she needs to call the Inn. The call was lengthy and she interrupted the librarian three times for change: "If the librarian had been helping patrons, or had been a woman less easy to intimidate," she would not have been able to complete her call to her satisfaction. Incidentally, **Tamar Myers** currently lives in the Charleston area. She sets a couple of the recent books in her Den of Antiquity Mystery series in Charleston.

Thanks to **Karen Roth**, Manager, Medical Libraries, Morton Plant Mease Health Care in Clearwater, FL, for referring me to **Open Season** by **Linda Howard** (Pocket Books, 2001). **Open Season** features a "thirty-four year old, small-town, barely-been kissed spinster librarian" who decides its time to make a change in her life if she can ever achieve a "normal, traditional life" of a husband, baby, and house of her own! Daisy Ann Minor wears lipstick in an almost invisible shade of Blush, has mousy, straight mud-brown hair, wears boring clothes with no style, and has always thought of herself as a loser: drab and boring. She hasn't had a date in over a decade. She lives at home with her mother and aunt, and has never been late to work. She is the director — which only meant that she was able to choose the books purchased — of a small public library in a small town in rural Alabama. On the positive side she was a "champion researcher," smart about investing her inadequate salary, and proud of the state's virtual library. She felt that her best librarian's voice was both brisk and friendly, and that "working with the public was a science, especially in a library." She felt it her

duty to encourage people, not only to read, but also to impart a sense of respect for the library. The mayor of the town, Daisy's immediate boss, considered her a "starchy old maid" but also one of his "favorite characters in a small

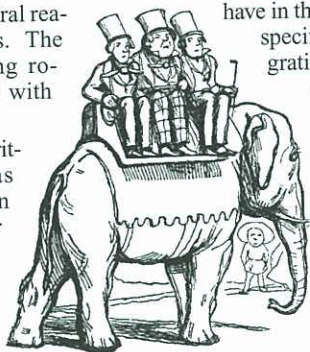
continued on page 71

town filled with characters, because she was so very stereotypical."

When Daisy decided to change her image from dull to exciting, from the perennial good girl to potentially bad, she traded one set of stereotypical descriptions for another. She became a blonde, learned how to use make-up, changed her entire wardrobe to dress for attention, and got her own apartment. She transformed herself into the ultimate party girl, going out to clubs every night, dancing with any man who asked and basically declared open season on husband hunting. In summary, in the process of this conversion, her life is endangered when she is witness to murder: "She had decided to go husband hunting and now someone was hunting her. It was open season all around." Of course she attracts the attention of the new Chief of Police for several reasons, and the story unfolds. The book has humor, including romance (i.e. hot sex scenes) with some suspense.

Linda Howard began writing at age nine and has authored nearly forty novels in all genres except horror (www.simonsays.com).

Open Season is in the romance/contemporary classification while others are indicated as suspense, fantasy, or adventure. One reviewer (Amazon.com) who identified other Howard titles as "detective thrillers" described **Open Season** as a modern-day Cinderella story that is a "thriller-lite." I agree. 🐘



Adventures in Librarianship — Reality

by Ned Kraft (Ralph J. Bunche Library, U.S. Department of State)
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"Micro-Subsets in Tyrolean Steep Integration: Tyranny, Triumph, or Ringo?" by J. Smith Hummingbeard, Ph.D. From *Journal of Fractal Analysis and Retrospective Patterns*, Volume 234, issue 3a(b), pages 1234-1235.

Abstract: This paper complements traditional team theory [Ruberheart, 1976; Smartman and Haze 1991 and 1993(b)] by introducing endogenous formation agents to traditional Tyrolean spice combinations.

When Ringo Starr suggested in 1966 that "many more of them live next door," he could not have imagined the impact that image would have in the field of fractal analysis and more specifically on the theory of steep integration. Indeed, Mr. Starr, many more of them DO live next door, and increasingly the schematic grids indicate a level of significance of 10 percent or better with t-values on a downward trend!

In order to verify the accuracy of the time variation curves, the three-index model (by a margin of two teaspoons) is estimated using ordinary least squares (OLS) over the micro-subsets suggested by Bruuug's time variation paths (2002, JLD). Put more simply, "everyone of us has all we need" in the sense of fractal compromise. If we had "more" than needed, certain subsets, micro or otherwise, would clearly disavow any relation-

ship to the latter... or the former for that matter.

Though many have argued that nominal engagement rate behavior is grounded by the naïve random-walk model, other variables tossed willy-nilly with large serving forks reduce the spontaneity of that model and undermine its authority. For example, "sky of blue" and "sea of green" cannot be accounted for in the naïve random-walk model. And who in their right mind would want such things to go unaccounted for. That would be a root-mean-square-error (RMSE), and should not be risked without first establishing tenure.

If we indeed "lived beneath the waves," then either a team or two individual agents would complete a tuple of reputations (*p1t* or *p2t*). Mr. Starr (Revolver 1966) had the foresight to place these players in his hypothetical yellow submarine, a luxury unavailable to today's esthemologists. No, today only Tyrolean Steep Integration can explain the behavioral risks inherent in non-transferable utility and other sorts of meandering tom-foolery. 🐘

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Group Therapy

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GRIFE: (submitted anonymously)

Do you have any suggestions for the best way/a good way to turn down a gift collection of books or one item when it's offered to the library for its collections, especially when the donor may have the potential to make a significant cash donation to the institution?

RESPONSE: (submitted by Lynda Fuller Clendenning, Head, Acquisitions Division, Indiana University Libraries, and Chair, ALCTS AS Gifts & Exchange Discussion Group):

A library's collection development and gift policies provide the best context for declining the offer of individual items or an entire book collection from a potential donor. Nevertheless, it is still necessary to handle these delicate situations with the utmost tact even when policies are in place. Without having these policies in place, the task of declining a collection is most difficult and the library opens itself to criticism.

Effective communication is the first step in building a relationship with a potential donor. We need to show genuine regard for the donor's book collection, commenting on its scope, the quality of the material,

and how the collection shows the collector's love of books or the subject. In courting a donor, the conversation about a donor's book collection is an opportunity to find out the donor's interests in the library, its programs and the parent institution, even if in the end, the library does not accept the collection.

When declining a gift collection, point to the collection development policy and indicate regret that the collection does not fit the library's collection scope or that the library already holds copies of most of the books. Then suggest donation alternatives for the collection: the public library, another university library, or foreign libraries. A list of the potential institutions for gift collections should be incorporated in the gifts policy.

If the collection is valuable but does not fit any of the libraries' collecting areas, you can explore selling the collection through a dealer and offering the proceeds to the library for a particular program to be worked out with the donor. If you have no alternative to accepting the book collection, make clear to donors that the library reserves the right to determine the final disposition of the gift.

If handled skillfully, declining a collection can lead to a lasting (and lucrative) relationship with the donor. 🐘